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Abatement of his Debts Yet this Assembly Who have been ever careful not to take away from the Interests of any person have not taken that Course but only for supply of people's Necessities and Enabling them to provide for their Subsistance in the Vacant Year from planting have Enacted and by the Authority of the &c.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PAPERS.

FROM ORIGINALS IN THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES.

CONTINUED.

LETTER OF GENERAL ANDREW LEWIS IN REGARD TO MR.
STADLER,¹ ENGINEER, 1776.

To The honourable the President and Convention:

Brigadier General Lewis begs Leave to represent to the honourable Convention, that this Country will certainly be deprived of the Assistance of Mr. Stadler the only Engineer now in this Colony under continental Commission unless some addition be made to his Pay, that may enable him to subsist. The necessity of fortifying many places for the Defence of this Government, makes it highly necessary he be retained in the service. Nor can he think such addition can be drawn into President that could effect the Honour of the House as nothing is more common than addition and extraordinary pay given to Engineers whose services are approved of.

[Endorsement]

General Lewis abt. Stadler.

¹John Stadler, probably a German, seems to have been the first trained military engineer in the service of the State. In October, 1778, on his petition, the Legislature allowed him a fund for travelling expenses, as he then had charge of erecting the fortifications at York, Hampton and Portsmouth.

RECOMMENDATION OF TARLETON PAYNE¹ FOR COMMISSION.

We have known Mr. Tarlton Payne during his service in the Army both as Sergeant and Cadet. We have always observed him diligent punctual and ready in the discharge of his duty in both stations. We look upon him to be a deserving young gentleman and should be pleased at his promotion as we think he is worthy of it.

Jno. Markham,
William Davies,
Jno. Fleming,
Wm. Cunningham,
Wm. Lewis,
Claiborne M. Lawson.

[Endorsement]

Recommendation of Mr. Payne.

LETTER TO JOHN GOODRICH,² SR., [1775].

Sir Herewith you will receive five thousand pounds Sterling in Bills of Exchange to lay out in Powder which I make no doubt of your best endeavours to do, as youre well acquainted with our great want of it. I wou'd recommend to you to communicate this Scheme to your Brother for fear of any accidents happening to you to prevent your transacting the business we must rely altogether for your endeavours for the best as it is impossible for me to say what is the best method to take in the Islands therefore leave it to you to transact this matter as you

¹Tarleton Payne was 2d Lieutenant, 1st Virginia, October, 1776; 1st Lieutenant, January 20, 1777; Captain, November 18, 1777; taken prisoner at Charleston, May 12, 1780; transferred to 7th Virginia, February 12, 1781, and served to the close of the war. He was son of Josias Payne, Jr., of Goochland county, Va., and afterwards of Nash's Lick (now Nashville, Tenn.), and was born February 21, 1758. His half sister Anne Payne married Gideon Pillow, and was mother of General Gideon J. Pillow, U. S. A. (see this Magazine, VII, 81, 82).

²This letter was evidently written by the Virginia revolutionary authorities to John Goodrich at the very beginning of the struggle, when he had undertaken to import powder. (See this Magazine, XIV, 389, 443; XV, 160, 165.) The papers in regard to him collected in this instalment were no doubt used in his trial.

think best for the good of the voyage. You'll have some letters to the Merchants in Antigua particularly to Mr. Jno. Taylor & Mr. Harvey to whom you'll please to refer any one that Shou'd doubt the Credit of the bills Mr. Phripp has also wrote Mr. Wan Dam & Mr. Jennings of Statia that I hope you'll meet with no difficulty in passing the Bills should it please God that you readily meet with the Gun Powder you'll please to write to your father what time we may expect you on the coast that we may keep a look out to warn you of any danger but I would advise you to slip into Carolina if you meet with a favorable opportunity & inform us over Land where to meet you that we may provide assistance. Let me beg of you to be as expeditious as possible for I know not how soon it may be wanted. I am wishing you a good voyage.

Y'r H'ble Servt.

P. S. the two letters to Norton & Sons you'l give to the purchasers of the bills being Letters of advice.

[Endorsement]

John Goodrich & Son their Receipt for Bills.

DINWIDDIE COUNTY COMMITTEE TO EDMUND PENDLETON.

Petersburg, January the 2d, 1776.

Hon'ble Sir:

The committee of corrispondence for Dinwiddie County beg leave to inform you that a certain Thomas Irving an inhabitant of this town is deputy post-master for Mr. Dixon that he is also an agent for Neil Jameison, who we understand is inimical to this country, and a partizan of Lord Dunmore's.

The committee would not chuse to be officious in acting without authority from the Convention, but are clearly of opinion it is highly improper and may be of great prejudice to suffer the said Irving to continue post-master which may give him an opportunity by opening letters—of conveying intelligence of the most dangerous nature to the welfare of this Colony.

We are fully persuaded that in no other part of America would an agent for an avowed enemy, at this time assisting Lord Dunmore in the most atrocious acts of violence & despotism be suffered to keep open store in the heart of that very country on

which they are using every diabolical measure in their power to bring ruin & desolation. Tho' solicitous to serve our country ever ready to offer the right hand of friendship in the cause of Liberty, yet we are anxious not to exceed the line of our duty and therefore beg, Sir, you would be pleased to point it out to us.

We are

Your Honours most obed't and very humble Servants,
William Harrison,
Bolling Stark
&
Joseph Jones.

The Hon'ble Edmund Pendleton Esq'r,
President of the Convention.

HECTOR MACALESTER TO EDMUND PENDLETON.

On board the Adventure off Norfolk 4th Jan'y, 1776.

Sir:

The occasion of this present address to you as President of the Convention will, I hope, without any apology for troubling you, claim your attention. A sloop of mine called the Swallow George Burrell Master arived about the 22nd Ulto with a load of salt from Turk's Island & I am informed is carried into Hampton, being seized for the use of the inhabitants of this Colony and I beg leave thro' your means to make application to the Convention for payment of the said vessel and her cargo. Ever since I have been settled in this Colony, I have, I trust, conducted myself so as to bring no imputation on my character as a trader, which by any subsequent conduct I will never forfeit to maintain this, it is now a duty very incumbent on me to urge justice being done to me by the Convention on this occasion, as I am considerably in debt in the Country and should my substance, already lessened by sudden & unexpected losses, be subject to this additional one, will be disabled from doing that justice which I ought & wish to do to every creditor. As it is not my intention to withdraw any part of my effects out of this Country untill I pay my debts in it (which without payment of my claim I will be unable to do) so whatever money will arise from the vessel & cargo will be applied to that purpose, and I hope, from

this consideration & a regard to justice the Convention will be pleased to order me payment. So soon as I have an opportunity of knowing their sentiments on this subject, shall transmitt proper vouchers & account of my demand, which at present I am not enable to do for want of the papers which came by the vessel. I am Sir very respectfully,

Your most obedient humble Serv't,

Hector MacAlester.

To

Edmund Pendleton, Esq'r

in

Williamsburg.

ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY IN REGARD TO THE
BURNING OF NORFOLK.*

In Committee of Safety.

Williamsburg January 31st 1776.

Lord Dunmore, having in his Gazette of the — Instant, charged the Provincial Troops, with burning the Town of Norfolk. Ordered a strict enquiry be made into conduct of our Troops on that occasion, and Colonel Howe is desired to transmit the depositions taken on such enquiry to this Board.

Extracts from the proceedings of the Committee.

John Beckley.

[Endorsement]

Order to inquire into Conduct of Troops.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COMMITTEE TO EDMUND PENDLETON.

Northampton Jan'y 14th 1776.

Sir:

Your favour of the 7th Inst. I have been honoured with, and without loss of time laid it before the Committee of this County,

*On January 1, 1776, Norfolk was fired by a party of sailors and marines from Dunmore's fleet, and the Virginia troops were so prejudiced against the town as a refuge for Tories that they made no effort to stop the flames. Three-fourths of the town were destroyed, and not long after, Col. Howe, acting under the orders of the Convention, destroyed the rest. See Campbell's *History of Virginia*, 639, 640.

who have dispatched the prisoners to Williamsburg under the Guard of Lieut. Stith & 6 privates.

It is with the utmost satisfaction this Committee find their Conduct respecting those deluded people approved by your Honourable Body; and you may be assured not only of their cheerful obedience on all occasions, but of their utmost endeavours & exertions for the publick service. I am very respectfully

Sir your most obedient servant,

Sam'l Smith McCroskey.

The Hon'ble Edmund Pendleton Esq'r,

President of the Convention Williamsburg.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COMMITTEE OF SAFETY IN REGARD
TO JOHN GOODRICH.

At a Committee held for Isle of Wight County the fourth day of January 1776.

It appearing to the Committee that Capt. John Goodrich late of Portsmouth hath frequently passed in a small Schooner up and down Nansemond and James Rivers—unmolested by the Man of War or any of their Tenders, and the said Capt. John Goodrich being brought before this Committee acknowledged that he attends Lord Dunmore once in every ten days, & declaring that he now intends to transport in his Vessel a Load of Corn from his plantation in this County to Nansemond and also acknowledging that he has liberty from Lord Dunmore to pass and repass at his will and pleasure to his different plantations without being interrupted by the Men of War or Tenders. This Committee considering that indulgence a priviledge denied to every other Inhabitant of Virginia and conceiving it to be their duty to prevent any kind of provision from being transported by water without a special [] from the Honourable convention or committee of safety, have thought proper to order the said Capt. John Goodrich with his Vessel to be conducted to Burwells ferry Landing and delivered to the commanding officer at that place in order that the Honourable convention may proceed against him as to them shall seem just an equitable. Capt. Goodrich having satisfied the Committee that he will im-

mediately proceed with his Vessel to Burwells ferry, the Committee have thought proper to order the above proceedings to be laid before the Honourable convention by Mr. John Mallory.

Copy Teste:

Francis Young a Com'r.

[Endorsement]

John Goodrich Report.

AMHERST COUNTY UNDER SHERIFFS.

At a Court continued & held for Amherst County at the Court house the Sixth day of February 1776.

Present:

William Cabell,
John Rose,
James Dillard,
Roderick McCulloch,
&
Daniel Gaines,
his Majesty's Justices.

On the motion of Hugh Rose Gentlemen Gabriel Penn & Joseph Tucker were sworn & admitted his under Sheriffs & took the Oath of Office, agreeable to Ordinance of Convention. We do hereby Certify that the above is a True Copy from the Minutes taken in Amherst County the Sixth day of February 1776.

Dan. Gaines,
William Horseley.

DEPOSITIONS IN REGARD TO JOHN GOODRICH.

James Buchanan being sworn on the holy Evangels of Almighty God deposeth and saith that about Sunday Week past being on Board his Vessel the Schooner Polly then on the ground on the swatch, they saw a Boat which he thought was a pilot Boat, but was afterwards informed by one of the Pilots that it was Capt. Goodrich's Boat, and that they were Prisoners for she was a Kings Tender, that when a Capt. John Goodrich came up he ordered this deponent to deliver up his Papers which he

did to the said Goodrich who told this deponent his Schooner was a Lawful prize and that his Master Capt. Wright was below & would be in that night who would be on Board the said Schooner, or on Board whom the said Buchanon must go—that on the same night the Schooner was Boarded by an Armed Boat belonging to the said Capt. Wright who put a prize Master and some hands on Board said Schooner and plundered her of all her live stock and took a Gun and from this deponent—That a Sloop supposed to belong to one Lot strange run up the sound that night which Sloop the said Goodrich saw, and the men on Board said Goodrich were desirous of taking which Goodrich opposed on account of her being an empty Vessel and harrassed by the Committees (as the pilots told him the said Sloop was not allowed to load on account of violating the association), that Capt. Wright next day blamed him much for not making a prize of her supposing her to have Cash on Board—That when the said Schooner Polly was on Ground on the Swatch, Goodrich desired Capt Wright to discharge Mr. Buchanon & his Schooner as she was old and could not be got off without much delay and her Cargo was of little value to them, which Wright positively refused and swore she should proceed round to Norfolk and this deponant further says that Capt. John Goodrich haled a certain Capt. Adderlys Vessel and ordered said Adderly to bring his papers on Board which he did and delivered them to said John Goodrich, who told him he should deliver them to Capt. Wright who would determine the matter in the morning and that the said Capt. Wright carried the said Adderly over the Bar with him the Tuesday following. James Buchanon, Sworn to in presence of the said John Goodrich who acknowledged the same to be the truth the 26th day of April 1776.

Before James Hogun a justice of the peace for the County of Halifax in North Carolina.

James Anderson being sworn on the Holy Evangels of Almighty God deposeeth and saith that he with Captain Harney and three other Boats boarded Capt. Goodrich who was in the Lilly Tender that as the said Harney was Boarding the said Goodrich he the said Harney flashed his Gun at said Goodrich. And that he heard Harney tell Goodrich he should not have flashed his Gun at him if he had not ordered his Crew to fire on the Boats

and that said Goodrich did not deny his having given such orders and that after he had been on Board a small time he heard Goodrich say that he was a prisoner and that he had been so harrassed on Both sides he did not value his life.

Jas. Anderson.

Sworn in the presence of said Goodrich at Halifax in No. Carolina 26th April, 1776.

Before James Hogun.

[Endorsed]

Depositions v. Goodrich.

Buchanan & Anderson.

BAIL BOND OF JOHN GOODRICH.

Know all men by these presence that we John Goodrich Junior of Norfolk County and William Harwood of Warwick county are held and firmly bound unto the honourable Edmund Pendleton President of the Committee of Safety in the full and just sum of two thousand pounds current money to be paid to the said Edmund Pendleton and his successors for the use of the Colony of Virginia to the which payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves and each of our heirs Executors and admrs. jointly and severally firmly by these p'sents sealed with our seals & dated this 30th day of Apl., 1776.

The Condition of the above obligation is such that if the above bounder John Goodrich Jun'r do make his personal appearance before the honourable the Convention of the Colony of Virginin to be holden at Williamsburg the first Monday in May next, and shali well and truly obey, abide by, and fulfil any ordinance, or ordinances, of the said convention, and that he shall not hold any correspondence with Lord Dunmore, or any other person inimical to America, that he will go home with the above bound William Harwood, and not absent himself three miles from the said Harwood's house without Lycence of the Committee of Safety or command of the Convention afore-said.

Then the above obligations to be void else to stand remain & be in force.

John Goodrich Jun'r.

Sealed & delivered in the p'sence of Dan. Winder Joseph Nourse.

Will'm Harwood.

[Endorsement]

Goodrich }
to the } Bond
President }

CHARLES CARTER⁵ TO WILLIAM FITZHUGH.

Shirley July the 3d, 1776.

Dear Sir:

I have a proper sense of the honour intended me by the Convention from my appointment to a seat in the Privy Council, and am much obliged to the Gentlemen for the good opinion they have been pleased to entertain of my Integrity, this mark of their esteem, I shall always think of with pleasure and ever wish to deserve, but as I cannot so effectually serve my Country in the high Station now allotted me, as some other members of the Community, who are ready and willing to undertake this most important duty, I must beg leave to resign all pretentions to the office, and flatter myself, that (without censure) I may be allowed to walk in the humble path of retirement long ago marked out for the remainder of my life.

I have thus early, my Friend informed you of my determined resolution, that you may communicate it to the House before their adjournment. I am dear Sir,

Y'r Affect. h'bles Servants,

Copy.

Chas. Carter.

⁵ Charles Carter, son of Hon. John Carter, of "Corotoman," Secretary of State, was born in 1732 and died in 1806. Until the death of his stepfather, Bowler Cocke, in 1776, he resided at "Corotoman" in Lancaster county, which he represented in the House of Burgesses at the sessions of September, 1758, November, 1758, February, 1759, November, 1759, March, 1760, May, 1760, October, 1760, March, 1761, November, 1761, January, 1762, March, 1762, November, 1762, May, 1763, January, 1764, October, 1764, May, 1765, November, 1766, March, 1767, March, 1768, May, 1769, November, 1769, May, 1770, July, 1771, February, 1772, March, 1773, May, 1774, June, 1775, and of the Conventions of 1775. He was twice married and has many descendants. The ancient seat "Shirley," Charles City county, is still the home of the family.

RICHARD HARRISON⁶ TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

St. Pierre Martinique July 20, 1776.

Gents:

Your letter of the 1st ulto. I had the Honor of receiving a few days ago by way of Statia, and agreeable to your request, immediately waited on the Governor, Count Dargout, with the several interesting Resolves it contained, which I have the Happiness to inform you were received with politeness & Thanks, perused with pleasure, and are now on the way to the Court of France. I embraced this occasion of Broaching also to his Excellency the other more *delicate* part of your Commands, and for answer on that subject, am authorized to assure you that the Americans may rely on a hospitable reception here, Protection, and every Indulgence in his power to grant them, at the same time being unable to accomodate them, openly, with so free and extensive a Trade in certain articles, as they might wish, he can only assist them by connivance, and therefore expects on their part secrecy & Discretion in the management of these matters, until he knows the result of his representations to the King, when perhaps less reserve may be necessary. This, Gentlemen, is as much as he can well promise, is sufficient to demonstrate his friendly Disposition & will I conceive suffice for your temporary purposes.

As to the people in general, I can venture to say, they are as united in their wishes for the success of America as the Americans themselves, and the ancient Distinctions of Whig & Tory are as much used among them. I believe they are sincere. For were we to admit them divested of all regard for the Rights of Humanity (which I by no means intend to insinuate) every Event tending to humble the Pride & Power of their Rivals, would, we may naturally conclude, contribute to their Joy & Triumph.

Many Vessels belonging to this Island have lately sailed for

⁶Other letters relating to supplies obtained by the Colonies from the Dutch and French islands have been printed in this series. Richard Harrison was probably the same person appointed by Washington, Auditor of the United States Treasurer.

the Northward and more will shortly follow, several of them with ammunition, which is now plenty & cheap. Dunmore keeps them from Virginia & Maryland, whither they have a great Inclination to trade. Could you once remove him I do not doubt but you would soon be well supplied with every necessary.

There are now two Vessels on the point of sailing, which I am persuading to the port you mention, and I believe they will attempt it, one of them is a fine Sloop mounting 12 Guns, well manned, and determined to fight her way through. If you should think it expedient to grant Commissions to such Vessels, I have reason to believe many more would be fitted out of this place; as they would then have the double Temptation of Trade and making captures. I should not have mention'd this matter to you, had I not been applyed to by some who are desirous of engaging in such an Enterprize provided I could procure them Commissions. Should you think proper to send me any I shall endeavour to make a prudent use of them.

My design by coming to this place was to serve my Country. Whenever therefore I can be of use to Virginia, by your Command freely, and depend on their being executed with much pleasure, by Sirs,

Your Mo. ob't and Mo. h'ble Serv't,

R'd Harrison.

Mr. Harrison from Martinique.

SALE OF CAPTURED VESSELS.

Dr. Commonwealth of Virginia.

1776, August.

To the Commissioners appointed by the late Convention, to sell four Vessels & 3 Negroes &c., &c., taken as prizes by Capt. R'd Taylor Amounting to £798.

ORDER IN REGARD TO BOWYER'S COMPANY.

At a Council held Sept'r 24th, 1776.

Captain Michael Bowyer, who was appointed to the command of a Company of Fifty men to build & Garrison a Fort at the mouth of the little Conhaway: having represented to this board

the impracticability of erecting the Fort, or defending it when erected with that number of men but that he might be usefully employed in reinforcing some men who are collected at Tigers Valley for the protection of that Country, the Path thro' which the Northern Indians must be expected to invade our Settlements. It is ordered therefore that Capt. Bowyer station his Company at Tigers Valley for the purpose aforesaid until the future order of the General Assembly or this board.

A Copy.

Arch'd Blair, C. C.

Order of Council respect'g Capt. Bowyer's Company.

VIRGINIA INDIAN COMMISSIONERS⁷ TO COL. PENTECOST.

Pittsburg Sept. 1st 1776.

Sir:

The Commissioners for Indian affairs in this Department have reasons to expect in four or five days a large Body of Indians in this place, whether they come with designs altogether Friendly and merely to attend the Treaty, or whether under the Pretext of Treating with us they mean to attack the Fort & Town we cannot as yet with certainty Determine, upon the most mature deliberation we are clearly of opinion, that it will conduce much to the publick service, and greatly secure the Preservation of the Country to have a number of good men well armed in and about this Town as soon as possible. We beg therefore Sir you will order three Hundred men of your Militia to march here Directly. Proper care should be Taken that the men should be Directed good marksmen and Equipp'd chiefly with Rifles and properly Officered, you will take the necessary steps to supply them with Provisions for their march thither, and we shall have a proper stock laid in for them here. We do not mean to alarm or affright the Country, or that the Inhabitants have reasons to be filled with uneasy apprehensions at Present, on the contrary we think this mode of proceedure will convince the Savages that

⁷The Commissioners appointed by Virginia to treat with the Indians at Pittsburg. The Journal of the Commissioners, with the speeches, &c., at the treaty are given in *The Revolution on the Upper Ohio*, (Wisconsin Historical Society, 1908), pp. 25-127.

the People are on their Guard, and Deter them from committing Hostilities if such are their intentions. The Commissioners do not doubt but you will Exert yourself in having the before mentioned number of Militia marched here as soon as possible, and thereby render the most Effectual service to your Country. Letters of a similar nature to the Present have been sent to the Militia of Westmoreland County.

We are Sir Your most Humbl. Serv'ts,
 Signed: Thomas Walker,
 John Harvie,
 John Montgomery,
 J. Gates.
 Care Colo. Dorsey Pentecost Esq'r,
 West Augusta.
 A Copy: Dorsey Pentecost.
 [Endorsement]
 Copy: The Commissioners Letter to Colo. Pentecost.

CHARLES CARTER TO EDMUND PENDLETON.

Shirley, October 1st 1776.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed is the Copy of a Letter to my Friend Mr. Fitzhugh, which I expected he would have communicated to the Hon'ble Convention, the day before their Adjournment, but he did not think proper to comply with my request, I must therefore beg this favour of you to offer it to the House at the ensuing Meeting, as my apology for not acting in the very honourable department they were pleased to place me—I am dear Sir with sincere regard,

Y'r affect h'ble Servant,

Chas. Carter.

To The Hon'ble Edmund Pendleton Esq'r,
 President of Convention,
 Williamsburg.

Mr. Carter's Resignation.

JOHN PAGE TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
IN REGARD TO THE SEAL.⁸

Palace, Oct'r 7th, 1776.

Hon'ble Sir:

As Mr. Wythe and myself who were appointed by the late hon'ble Convention to superintend the engraving of the Seal of the Commonwealth and to take care that the same should be properly executed, finding it impracticable to procure an Engraver in this State, those who were in any manner qualified for such an undertaking being engaged in engraving Plates for the Paper Money, have been under the necessity of employing proper Persons to execute this Business in Philadelphia. I have been informed by Mr. Jefferson whom I applied to, to engage Artists qualified for the work, that he had employ'd such as were excellent and that the work must now be in great Forwardness but, that from the Nature of it, it will be some Time before it can be completed. I expect to have a particular account of the State of this Business from Mr. Wythe by the next Post. I thought it my Duty Sir, to lay this short account of the unavoidable Delay of this important Business before you that the House may take such steps to remedy the Inconvenience arising from the want of the Seal, as they may judge proper. I have the honor to be Sir,

Your Mo. obed't h'ble Serv't,

John Page.

The Hon'ble

The Speaker of the

House of Delegates.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

⁸On July 5, 1776, the last day of the Convention of 1776, George Mason, from the Committee to which the matter had been referred, reported a device, the same as that now used, and George Wythe (who is believed to have suggested the design), and John Page were desired to superintend the proper engraving of a seal. No full and accurate account of the Colonial and State seals of Virginia has been published; but it is believed that Mr. E. S. Evans of this city, formerly of the Virginia State Library, has material for a valuable work on the subject. The best account yet published is in Vol. IV, *William and Mary Quarterly*.